

GREATER ONTARIO

BY REV. J. D. BYRNES

Prophetstown



A CHURCH ON THE OUTER FRINGE

AC901

AM

1912

1912-1913

1912

GREATER ONTARIO

OR NEW ONTARIO

BY REV. J. D. BYRNES

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF HOME MISSIONS,
SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

IN 1911 we wrote a leaflet entitled "Greater Ontario"; we have now chosen the same title, believing it to be more applicable than ever to this New Land of Promise.

New Ontario proper is that part of the province lying North and West of the French River, Lake Nipissing and the Mattawa. It is divided into eight large Districts, viz., Nipissing, Temiskaming, Sudbury, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora and Patricia. There should be added for practical purposes (civil and religious) Parry Sound and Manitoulin. This gives New or Northern Ontario an area of approximately 350,000 square miles, a territory more than one and one-half times the size of Germany, nearly four times the size of Great Britain, while six Old Ontarios might be placed side by side within its borders.

1912

National Library
of CanadaBibliothèque nationale
du Canada

022098

THE WEALTH OF NATURE.

We know that the attractiveness of a land for human habitation depends not so much on the length of its coast line or the extent of its territory, as it does upon the richness of its natural resources. Unfortunately space will not permit us to tell of these great endowments of nature, of furs and fisheries, of millions of acres of pine and pulp yet untouched in this mighty timber berth of the North.



WHERE THE LUMBERMEN ARE FOUND

Likewise, we must pass by marvellous mineral deposits save to say that in this department New Ontario stands the unchallenged leader in our broad Dominion. Here is the world's greatest nickel deposit; here the largest producing silver mine and the richest gold mine in the British Empire. In 1918 one hundred per cent. of

Canada's nickel, ninety per cent. of Canada's silver, and eighty per cent. of Canada's gold came from New Ontario.

What shall we say of the potential electric power hidden away in the rivers? What of the agricultural possibilities of the great clay belts lying hundreds of miles farther south than Prince Albert or Edmonton, clay belts as rich in producing power as any new land from "Sea to Sea, or from the river (St. Lawrence) to the ends of the Earth!"

These and many other resources must be passed by, but in passing let us return thanks to Our Father for placing such enormous deposits to our credit in these His chartered banks of Hill and Valley, Lake and Stream.

THE PEOPLE

THE first white men to discover New Ontario were likely those of the Hudson Expedition, who, in 1610, looked upon our northern forests. Five years later Champlain pitched his tent on the shores of Lake Nipissing. From that day to this many have spied out the land, but some, like Israel's Timid Ten, brought an evil report. Some said 'tis a goodly land, rich in many resources, but the sons of Anak, called Blinding Snow and Biting Frost, have conquered the land so that we cannot go up against it. Thus for centuries this



COBALT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MANSE .

vast district lay like a mighty barrier separating eastern civilization from western progress. Recently, however, the attraction of copper and nickel, of silver and gold, brought adventurers, bush rangers and prospectors by the thousands. Then followed the merchant and the mechanic, the professional man and the homesteader. Also men from almost every creed and clime have crowded our gates, increasing the population many hundred-fold.

THE CHURCH

THE Presbyterian Church circles the Presbytery of Superior is connected with the Synod of Manitoba, while Barrie and North Bay Presbyteries are reckoned with New Ontario.

Thirty years ago the men of Bruce planned for a Presbytery "up the Lakes." In 1892 their dream came true when the Presbytery of Algoma was erected. North Bay

was organized in 1898, then followed Temiskaming in 1909 and Sudbury in 1914. Of the four Northern Presbyteries, Algoma is the most compact, Temiskaming the most extensive. The former has a working territory of about 25,000 square miles, the latter is working at points within its bounds five hundred and twenty-eight miles apart, a distance greater than Sarnia is from Montreal, or Calgary from the Peace River country.

The growth of the work may be illustrated from our newest Presbytery of Sudbury. Despite the fact that it was organized during the war and thus had to face unusual conditions, its self-supporting congregations have increased from one to five, and its strength in ordained men nearly doubled.

The Presbyteries of New Ontario, like those in British Columbia, have to face practically every type of missionary activity carried on by our church on Canadian soil and more devoted conveners, clerks and missionaries it would be hard to find.

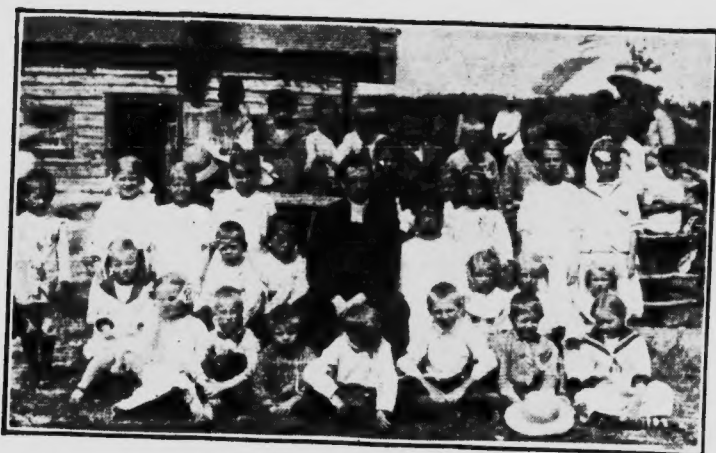
CO-OPERATION has been carried on in New Ontario for a number of years, but in the early days the negotiations took the form of "Conversations" rather than "Signed Agreements." Of the latter the Matheson case, early in 1909, is among the first. In the older centres the problem was more difficult, permanent agreements going

back only to 1913. In 1914-15 we were working on a more permanent basis, but waiting for legislation which would enable us to advance all along the line. In 1917 a forward step was taken which eliminated all overlapping between Methodists and Presbyterians in New Ontario.

This mobilization of forces resulted in the saving of more than forty men and over \$26,000 a year in New Ontario alone. If the rest of the Synod is included, it means a total saving of practically fifty men, and almost \$30,000 a year to the missionary enterprises of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This conservation of man and money power has not only liberated leaders for more needy centres, but has greatly strengthened the fighting force of the local



OUR ITALIAN MISSION, SAULT STE. MARIE



FINNISH MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COPPER CLIFF

Presbyteries. They are now serving a constituency (reckoned by families) thirty per cent. larger, while contributions for support of ordinance has increased one hundred per cent., and that for missionary and benevolent purposes nearly three hundred per cent. during the last six years.

Despite the sacrifice of many sweet associations, the people are proud to have had a part in the "Big Drive" that has helped to eliminate overlapping in aid-receiving congregations between the Presbytery of Toronto and Winnipeg, thus making New Ontario the great "middle link" of co-operation binding East to West.

NEW CANADIANS

OUR first effort among these newcomers was to teach them English. As early as 1912 the Roberts System was

introduced by the Rev. C. A. Malcolm, then at Sellwood, as a method of instruction. Many of our missionaries and some laymen conducted classes here and there, but the first regular missionary was Rev. A. I. Heinonen, who opened up work among his fellow-countrymen, the Finns, in 1913, at Copper Cliff.

In 1914 an Italian Missionary was installed at Sault Ste. Marie, and later a Scandinavian worker sent into the Cobalt-Cochrane country. The effect of the work



IN A COBALT SILVER MINE

of these missionaries on the future of our country no one can estimate, but the following examples may be given:—

First, The International Nickel Company, in addition to giving the old school

building at Copper Cliff for chapel and hall, at the nominal rental of \$1.00 a year for twenty years, makes an annual contribution to the institutional department.

Secondly, our missionary has been instrumental in having a number of public schools established in townships that are settled with Finlanders.

Thirdly, practically every Finn voter in Copper Cliff and surrounding townships signed the prohibition petition asking the Legislature for a "Dry Ontario."

THE FUTURE

AFTER completing a survey regarding the Churches, manses and men required for the next five years, the Presbyteries of the North felt that if the required resources were available eighty per cent. of the estimated work could be inaugurated in the next five days. Many of the fields should be divided at once. For example, Capreol, a town scarcely more than two years old, has asked that they be allowed to stand alone as a self-supporting congregation. Their petition was supported by a list of over fifty subscribers, averaging \$43 each, and as yet the congregation had neither church building nor manse property. Presbyteries simply must respect such requests.

On another field, the missionary is covering a territory 316 miles long, and recently he was asked to take on another 295 miles,

with an additional twelve to fifteen thousand souls.

Add to this the fact that we have only four workers among over one hundred thousand non-English speaking people, and study the turmoil and strife of class with class and race with race, even though

“All sprung from one God Seed,” we are forced to ask, what of the future? When the hills, from the Huron to the Hudson, will have answered the knock of the prospector’s pick, and the pioneer’s plough will have turned the soil in a hundred fertile valleys, when men will have echoed the call of a thousand waterfalls, and hundreds of centres will hum with the song of life’s activity in farm and in factory, in mill and in mine: the future, when millions of men will call this country Home.

The character of that To-morrow depends upon the consecration of To-day. This is the task our God has set. Nothing but the love of Jesus permeating the souls of these multitudes will save Canada for the Union Jack or for the Cross of Christ. But if we, as a Church, are true to the trust of to-day and lift Him up before these “many nation mixed.”

“A Strong New race shall take its place
In a World we are yet to see.”

Issued by Forward Movement Committee. Presbyterian Church in Canada. Copies on application. 256 Confederation Life Bldg, Toronto.

NEW ONTARIO

Area—1,000 by 350 miles—6/7 of Province.

Resources—Contains world's nickel; paid almost \$100,000,000 silver dividends; one gold mine yields \$6,000,000 annually; large forest wealth; clay belt, 18,000,000 acres.

Population—280,000, 45% non-Anglo-Saxon.

The Church—Presbyterian preaching points, 226; communicants, 9,465; ordained ministers, 50.



NEW ONTARIO WHEAT FIELD OVER 400 MILES NORTH OF TORONTO



